HENRY ADAM DAVID MCNURE (MCNEILL) GEORGE W. MCNURE

Born on November 27, 1841, in Columbia, South Carolina, H. A. David McNure moved to Mississippi with his family in the years just prior to the Civil War. On June 1, 1861, just six months shy of his 20th birthday, David and his younger brother, George W. McNure, enlisted in Company C, "True Confederates," 8th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers at Raleigh, Mississippi. The company traveled "69 miles to a place of rendezvous," and the brothers furnished their own "subsistence" for three days. This company "was successively designated as Captain William T. Ward's Company, (Old) Company D, and (New) Company C, 8th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers."

Company C, 8th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers, was transferred from the State (of Mississippi) to Confederate (CSA) service on August 24, 1861, and was commanded by Col. G. G. Flint. H. A. D McNure "joined for duty and enrolled on October 18, 1861, in Enterprise, Mississippi, for a period of one year." (Evidently, it was necessary to "re-enlist" or re-confirm one's commitment once the company was transferred to the CSA.) The regiment was ordered to Pensacola, Florida, "at once," where they "encamped with the forces under General Bragg through the fall and winter of 1861, during which time there were severe artillery engagements...They "remained at Pensacola until that place was evacuated in May 1862 when the regiment was ordered to Mobile under the command of Lt. Col. Gates..." (Source: www.mississippiscv.org/MS_Units/8th_MS_Inf)

From Mobile, Company C were "transferred to Pollard, AL, and Warrington, FL, and then moved to Chattanooga where General Bragg was preparing for his campaign in Kentucky. The Eighth (under the leadership of Lt. Col. A. McNeill) was assigned to J. K. Jackson's Brigade, Withers' Division, Polk's right wing, General Braxton Bragg's Army of the Tennessee. They eventually marched to Murfreesboro, TN, and were on the east side of Stones River at the opening of the Battle of Murfreesboro on December 31, 1862.

Fighting was hot and heavy, and the Eighth sustained its first major losses, with 20 being killed and 113 wounded. One of those wounded was H. A. David McNure (identified as a "teamster") who was "wounded severely in (the) bowels." In January and February 1863, McNure was "in hospital," and "on detached service" from March through August 1863. Apparently, he was "furloughed from the hospitals at Atlanta, GA, on March 2, 1863, for a period of thirty days."

The next information available indicates that David McNure was "on furlough" during January and February, 1864, and was docked "one months' pay...for absence without leave" during March and April, 1864. There is no Indication of his whereabouts during this period, but he probably returned to Mississippi to recuperate from his wounds.

Meanwhile, George W. McNure was made a sergeant and remained with the 8th Regiment, which "was stationed on the river at Bridgeport, AL, until July 1863, engaging at times in hunting deserters and bushwhackers in Northern Alabama." The Eighth was then at Chattanooga with Bragg's army and fought in the Battle of Chickamauga. On Sunday evening, September 19, 1864, they advanced to a position on the Chattanooga Road, and although subjected to heavy fire, they held their place until the Federal army was driven from its last position. "In this last fight Lt. Col. A. McNeill was killed while gallantly leading the right wing of the regiment." Casualties for the two days were: 10 killed and 84 wounded out of 252. Captain H. W. Crook assumed command in the absence of Lt. Col. McNeill.

The Eighth Regiment held a position near Chattanooga Creek during the Battle of Lookout Mountain; and in the Battle of Missionary Ridge, on November 25, 1863, they were "in line with Cheatham's Division." Many in the regiment were captured in this battle. The rest retreated to Dalton, GA, and went into winter quarters until February 1864.

When the Federal army under the command of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman advanced south in February 1864, the Eighth was sent "to meet the enemy at Dug Gap"...and they were hotly engaged in battle with the brigade of Col. Benjamin Harrison. They also fought "at Calhoun, GA on May 14; at Resaca, GA, on May 15; at Adairsville, GA, on May 17; at New Hope Church on May 27; along the line of Kennesaw Mountain until July 2; and on July 9 they crossed the Chattahoochee."

In September 1864 the Eighth joined with the thirty-second under Col. Tison, Lowrey's Brigade, Cleburne's Division. They fought in Northern Alabama and were part of the fighting at Spring Hill and Columbia, Tennessee. On November 30 they took part in the memorable assault on Federal forces in Franklin, TN. Moving north, the Eighth fought in the Battle of Nashville where "Lowrey's Brigade repulsed all assaults...and was involved in the general disaster, fighting near the Granny White Pike with Lowrey in division command...The brigade recrossed the Tennessee River on December 26, 1864, and marched into Northeast Mississippi. It was probably at this point that David McNure rejoined his regiment.

On March 31, 1865, Lowrey's Brigade was placed in the army of General Joseph E. Johnston, near Smithfield, North Carolina. The army surrendered on April 26, 1865, at Greensboro, NC, and later "stacked arms" at High Point, NC. David McNure was present at the both the surrender and the stacking of arms and parole. An affidavit to this effect was submitted by Reuben McNair, "who was in company with Mr. H. A. D. McNeal" in Mount Olive, Mississippi, on December 21, 1932.

No further information is available at this time on George W. McNure. He did survive the War and was given residence at the Beauvoir Confederate Soldier's Home in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he died on April 4, 1909, and was buried in the Beauvoir Cemetery. Until my phone call, he was listed on the Internet as G. W. McNuice, but an email from Alice Bellanger, Archivist, Beauvior.org, indicated that the webmaster would correct the spelling of George's last name.

Henry Adam David McNure returned to Mississippi after the Civil War. In 1866 his father bought land in Smith County, Mississippi, and although David was 25 years old, he might have moved back into the home of his parents. His brother George would have been only 21 at the end of the War, and presumably he moved back home was well.

In 1870 David purchased 160 acres of land in Covington County under the Homestead Act. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the petition on July 1, 1875, although David had possession of the land since 1870.

David also legally changed his surname about this time. Although there are no records to document this change (the courthouse in Smith County burned twice!) and there is no written reason for this action, it seems fairly easy to understand why the name "McNure" might have been a problem for the young man, especially during roll calls in the army! As mentioned earlier, it is speculated that the name "McNeill" was chosen because of David's high regard for his first commanding officer during the War, Lt. Col. A. McNeill. It is also worth noting that the McNeill family in Mississippi were a well-respected family that could trace its lineage back to Scotland, much like the McNures.

On November 30, 1871, David married the daughter of John Calquhoun McLaurin and

Effy McInnis McLaurin. Her name was Sarah Caroline McLaurin and she was born on March 29, 1849, in Simpson County, MS. David and Caroline built their home in the Jaynesville community of Simpson County. He farmed the land and she took care of the home. Two children were born to the young couple--a daughter, whom they named Effie Leona McNeill, and a son named Hugh Alexander McNeill. The family was active in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, where David served as an elder for sixty years and as clerk of the session.

David's wife died on January 6, 1916, and he followed eight years later at the age of 83 (March 20, 1924). H. A. David McNure/McNeill left a legacy of Christian commitment, hard work, and high standards for his descendants. He served his country, fought for Confederacy and lived a good and faithful life.



Henry Adam David McNure McNeill



Company C ("True Confederates"), 8th Regiment, Mississippi Infantry, CSA

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